(d) if so, by when the dues are likely to be cleared by NTC?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Since cotton is purchased by the NTC mills on credit terms, there are bound to be certain outstanding dues to the cotton suppliers including Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation of any given point of time. During the last few years due to acute shortage of working capital, the NTC has fallen into arrears in clearing the cotton dues. As on 31.3.1997, the NTC's outstanding dues to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation are Rs. 123.20 cr. provisionally subject to reconciliation. NTC is expected to clear these dues on availability of funds.

Proposals for promoting Handicrafts in Gujarat

140. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Gujarat for promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of them pending or under consideration as on date;

(c) whether Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in Kachch region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts in Gujarat, particularly in Kachch region during the last three years, year-wise, and the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from the Govt. of Gujarat for the promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years. However the number of proposal received during the last three years from Gujarat State Handicrafts Corpn. and various Non-Government Organisations and the number of proposals pending as on date is as under:

Number of received	Proposals	Total	Pending as on date
1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	117	3
46	47	24		

(c) and (d) For the promotion of handicrafts in the country including in the Kachch region of Gujarat the schemes of the Govt. include: training, marketing programme, exhibition & publicity, design development and marketing development support.

(e) The amount spent on the promotion of handicraft in Gujarat including in Kachch region during the last three years and current year till date is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
			(till date)
51.05	80.42	45.65	Nil

Payment to the Workers eligible under the TWRF Scheme

141. SHRI RAMJI LAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office of the Textile Commissioner has received a copy of the letter No. 8 (331)/IND/TEX/ASR/2953-54 dated 17.7.92 regarding payment to the workers of Himachal Worsted Mills Ltd., Nalagarh, Solan, under the TWRF Scheme with reference to D.O. letter No. 6/26/91/O&M/31 dated 25.6.92;

(b) whether in this letter it has been communicated that the Office of the Textile Commissioner of Amritsar has iden-